

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### 2025 HOPE COLLEGE ALUMNI EXHIBITION

#### **Richard Aardsma**

Richard Aardsma is an artist and photographer who primarily works in digital print media. After completing a career in education as a photographer and graphic designer, Richard embarked on a second career in fine art photography. He has presented his work in both national and international exhibitions, winning numerous awards. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art from Hope College (1971), where he experimented with photo imagery. Subsequently, he completed graduate work in fine art printmaking at Michigan State University. Richard's artwork is included in both private and public art collections, such as the permanent art collection of Grand Valley State University. He has resided in the Midwest for most of his life and currently resides with his wife in Grandville, Michigan.

#### **John Andersen**

John Andersen lives in West Michigan with his wife and two sons where he paints in oils. The American Tonalists of the late nineteenth century, particularly George Inness, have had the greatest influence on his work. John has earned numerous awards from juried competitions and his work is collected across the United States.

#### **Ann Arrasmith**

I graduated from Hope College in 1989 with an Art Studio Major and a Psychology Minor. While I did not have a career in the fine arts, I have continued to love art in all forms and media. We are members of our Cincinnati Art Museum and when we travel, I always seek out art museums. I am now applying the art skills I learned at Hope College and Ball State University in the area of photography. I am in the Camera Club at our Cincinnati Nature Center, and I am enjoying learning all of the complexities with how to take digital pictures.

#### **Brianna Derfiny**

Bri Derfiny is a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores themes of identity, disconnection, and emotional resilience. Through familiar imagery she examines the tension between presence and absence—what it means to be seen, heard, and remembered in both personal and collective spaces. Her work often centers on overlooked objects and moments. These elements reflect a broader narrative about visibility, longing, and the emotional labor of existing authentically in environments that may not fully understand or reflect who we are. With a background in both fine art and design, she brings a thoughtful, multidisciplinary approach to her practice—balancing conceptual depth with accessibility. Her work has been featured in group exhibitions and independent projects. She continues to create with the intention of building connection through subtle but intentional acts of visual storytelling.

#### **Jacob Dombrowski**

I am who I am.

#### **Wade Eldean**

Wade Eldean graduated from Hope College and earned an MFA from the University of Idaho and a MBA from GVSU. Wade has taught art and design courses at Hope College, Baker College, and the University of Idaho. His artwork has previously exhibited at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Boise Art Museum, the Liberace Museum, Indiana State University, Washington State University, Pittsburg State University, The University of Texas, and Southern Oregon University. Wade Eldean's background is in painting, but most of his paintings include mixed media techniques, or in some cases, they have no paint at all. Instead, Wade applies materials like yarn or tile as an alternative to paint. Besides being an artist, Wade is the owner and general manager of Eldean Shipyard, a marina and resort on Lake Macatawa.

**Bailey Ellens**

Bailey Ellens (b. 2000, Michigan) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Chicago, IL. Working across collage, video media, painting, and writing, her practice engages with themes of autobiographical memory, authorship, and metaphysical inquiry. Through a hybrid approach to image-making, she creates works that resist linear narratives and challenge traditional structures of meaning.

**Steven Haulenbeek**

Steven Haulenbeek is a Michigan-based artist and industrial designer. He received his bachelor's degree in drawing and sculpture from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, in 2002 and his master's degree in Designed Objects from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. In 2010, after working professionally as a furniture designer, he founded his independent design practice with interests in experimental, material, and process-focused objects for the home. Steven Haulenbeek Studio is represented by Carpenters Workshop Gallery in Paris, London, New York, and Los Angeles.

**Jon Hook**

Studio ceramic artist Jon Hook creates sculptural work and functional pottery. He received his BA from Hope College, Holland, MI, in 1986. In 1997 he co-opened Hook Pottery Paper in northwest Indiana with his wife, Andrea Peterson. He has built his own kilns since 1987 in which he only fires with wood. The work emphasizes the use of local materials such as local clay, straw, and cattails, adding color in the form of ash glaze to the surface of the wood fired ceramics. He is a forerunner and expert in his field concerning sustainable firing and ceramic studio practices. Jon's work is in numerable private collections across the country. He exhibits his work nationally. He has exhibited at Krasl Art Center, St. Joe, MI; Phoenix Gallery, NYC; Lubeznik Center, Michigan City, IN; and Pink Gallery, Oak Park, IL, as well as in his own gallery and studio, Hook Pottery Paper. He teaches and conducts workshops at his own studio as well as at The Krasl Art Center, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, and others. He is a 2015 and a 2017 grant recipient from the Indiana Arts Commission.

**Blake Johnson**

Blake Johnson is a Holland-based commercial artist, specializing in illustration, screen printing, and hand-lettering. He grew up in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from Hope College in 2017, studying Management, Studio Art, and Leadership. His creative interests focus on the intersection of art, business, and community.

**Parker Johnson**

Parker is a photographer and designer based in Michigan. Through her travels and life in the midwest, her photography documents the everyday moments of the people and places around her. Whether navigating the streets of New York City, exploring an abandoned plane, or trekking 530 miles across Spain, she is always in pursuit of adventure.

**Madeline King**

Madeline King is a multidisciplinary artist who received her Bachelor of Arts from Hope College in 2019. During her studies she spent some time in New York City, where she moved after graduation, before returning to her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she is currently based. King's practice has transitioned from digital media to acrylic painting and photography, with a focus on evoking nostalgia and reflecting on the complexities of memory.

### **Jesse Koskey**

Jesse Koskey lives with his wife, Young, and his twin boys, Chris and Alex, in the Sacramento area. He graduated from Hope in 1998 with a studio art major and then spent 10 years painting, sculpting, and drawing. When that became less internally necessary, he went back to school and is now a psychiatrist at UC Davis. He is an active advocate for the arts in medicine. Currently he teaches a 120-hour drawing course for medical students and is spearheading the development of a longitudinal medical school arts curriculum. Perhaps in response to this work, in 2025 the inner necessity of art returned, and he has resumed a daily painting practice. His website is [jessekoskey.com](http://jessekoskey.com).

### **Justin Korver**

Justin Korver is an artist and educator in Kansas City. He is from a small town in Iowa, and the plains of home taught him to understand minimalism. He moved to Holland, Michigan, to complete his undergraduate work at Hope College. While in Michigan, he was influenced by mid-century design and discovered a passion for hardware stores. After Michigan, he moved to Texas to pursue his MFA at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where his thesis focused on the social construction of masculinity. After grad school, he began working as a Senior Lecturer of Art at Texas A&M San Antonio, where he facilitated various courses in the theory and practice of art. He then moved to Kansas City in 2024 to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Foundations at the Kansas City Art Institute. At KCAI, he mentors students as they navigate the first year of college. He also maintains an active research practice. He exhibits his artwork extensively with recent exhibitions at the Contemporary at Blue Star, grayDUCK Gallery, Artpace, and McNay Art Museum. He has participated in artist residencies at the Kunstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, Casa LÜ in Mexico City, and Rockland Woods outside Seattle.

### **Jo Locke**

Jo Locke [b. Louisville, Kentucky (she/they)] is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY, working across printmaking, papermaking, dance-improvisation, and sculptural collage. They received a BA in Studio Art and Sociology from Hope College. Jo has shown work at PressaHouse in San Antonio, TX; SpaceRora in Seoul, SK; Santa Reparata International School of Art in Florence, Italy; LICA in NYC, and more. Through research on what Jo calls the Illusion of Progress, they are seeking to make use of art's ability to intervene in our taken-for-granted realities and question contemporary social systems. Drawing from observations across the dance studio and the print shop, Jo seeks to harness the power of building community through movement in space. They are particularly interested in how memory and emotion are tied to physical space and how technology has intervened both in this relationship and the collective social self. Jo has received awards including the Kentucky Governor's School for the Art's Toyota Alumni Fund, Borgeson Scholars Grant, and the Herman Miller Art Award. They have participated in residencies at the New York Arts Program, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, Chautauqua Institute, and Frontera Arts in Bloom.

### **Karie Luidens**

Karie Luidens is an award-winning writer and artist with roots in upstate New York and West Michigan. Her personal and political essays have been featured everywhere from niche literary magazines to international news outlets, and her paintings have hung in juried exhibitions across multiple cities. She has also served as an arts and culture reporter for several regional publications in New Mexico. 2024 marked the publication of her first book, *In the End: A Memoir about Faith and a Novel about Doubt*. She currently lives in Pennsylvania, where she maintains an active creative practice.

### **Brianne Munch**

Brianne Munch is an artist, educator, and advocate for the arts. She grew up in Traverse City, MI, but currently lives, works, and creates in Chicago. Since her youth, she has been engaged with the arts realm and has been a constant creator within it. After receiving her BA in Studio Art from Hope College, she has grown as an artist in her local community and sells her ceramic work in boutiques and galleries in Northern Michigan. Her inspiration for her ceramic work derives from her mentors, the historical aspect of vessels, and the culinary functionality of artwork for the everyday. Alongside her own studio practice, she teaches wheel throwing classes and workshops at a ceramic studio in Chicago. While ceramics is her main focus, her work expands into analog photography, sculpture, and printmaking.

### **Maddie Nelson**

Maddie Nelson is a multidisciplinary artist working in assemblage, sculpture, and performance art. Based in Holland, Michigan, her practice uses found objects to explore the imaginative in-between, excavating the embedded truths of humanity from the fragments left behind. She earned her BA in Studio Art and Dance Production from Hope College in 2023. During her time there, she was awarded the prestigious Billy Mayer Memorial Scholarship, an honor that deepened her commitment to artistic practice and encouraged experimentation across disciplines. Maddie's work has been presented in exhibitions and performances throughout Southwest Michigan, reflecting her interest in creating experiences that bridge materiality, movement, and narrative. Most recently, she contributed to LAMP Productions' staging of *Wonka*, where she collaborated on choreography as well as set and prop development. Her multidisciplinary approach continues to evolve, fueled by curiosity, play, and a belief in the transformative potential of objects.

### **Kelly Ocock**

Kelly Jean Ocock (b. 1997, American) is a mixed-media artist and therapist based in Denver, Colorado. Her work explores memory, time, and the human experience of loss. Her practice centers on abstracting photographic images through transfer processes, creating layered compositions that highlight what is present and what is absent. Kelly studied Studio Art and Psychology at Hope College, graduating in 2019. She continues to balance her time making art and working with a diverse range of clients in the therapy setting. Her dual practice informs her exploration of grief, inviting viewers to reflect on the tensions between expectations and loss.

### **Mariah Pearl**

Mariah Pearl is an artist and illustrator working primarily in watercolor and design. Her studio, Pearl & Proper, currently focuses on portraiture, event details, and book illustrations. Her illustrations can be found in the children's book *Dinos Don't Drink Coffee* authored by Emi Cole, which will be released in the coming year. Currently residing in Ireland, she graduated Hope College with Majors in Psychology and Studio Art. She then went on to study a Masters of Research in Creative Practices at Glasgow School of Art and received her Masters of Philosophy in Psychoanalytic Studies from Trinity College Dublin. Since graduating Hope College she has shown in several private group shows, been commissioned for music videos (Petrol Girls: Survivor), Her writing has been published in journals such as Lumpen (UK), and her practice is currently funded by the Irish Basic Income for Working Artists initiative. Mariah works primarily with intellectual disabilities and neurodivergent individuals. Her portraiture painting practice currently focuses on commemorating the everyday life, events, and milestones of individuals in context.

### **Dylana R. Pinter**

Dylana enjoys storytelling, especially when it involves sharing an obscure fact, and delights in finding ways to repurpose what others might consider "trash". Her most celebrated upcycling accomplishment this year was outfitting a 2,000-square-foot exhibit with interpretive signage made entirely from laser-etched cardboard. As the Creative Director for an outdoor education and conservation non-profit in Holland, MI, she gets ample opportunity to research and share fascinating phenomena from the natural world through illustrations, exhibits, and design.

### **Alyssa Richards**

Alyssa Richards is a contemporary artist and UI/UX designer based in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a lead designer at a Fortune 100 company, where she leverages deep expertise in human-centered design methodologies to shape innovative solutions across fintech, digital ecosystems, and emerging AI-driven experiences. Her professional background in research-driven design deeply informs the clarity, structure, and conceptual approach of her multimedia art practice. Richards holds a BA in Studio Art from Hope College. Her work spans installation, sculpture, and mixed media, often exploring themes of memory, perception, and emotional resonance. Drawing from methodologies used in scientific research and systems thinking, she creates tangible representations of personal narratives. She has exhibited nationally, including shows in New York City and San Antonio at NYCAMS Gallery, Clamplight, The Brick, and Flight Gallery. Her collaborative installation work has also been featured in Site:Lab's immersive exhibitions in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **Sarah Saddler Christian**

Striving for a balance between lines, interesting shapes, and spontaneous atmospheric colors has been a consistent theme in Sarah's paintings. Early on she concentrated on large, non-objective oil paintings to express feelings of comfort, peace, and depth. In her recent paintings she uses images such as vintage cottages, landscapes, and interior-scapes to evoke similar feelings. Her current works (oils and acrylics) are smaller in scale and utilize energetic brushstrokes and chunky colors to construct impressions of engaging spaces. Sarah received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hope College in 1983. She was born in Ann Arbor, raised in Midland, MI, and currently lives and has gallery representation in Lake Geneva, WI, and in Beulah, MI. She is a Michigander who is inspired by the green forests, blue waters, and golden fields of northern Michigan. She painted during the 1980s, went to graduate school for clinical social work in the 1990s, and became a psychotherapist who currently practices in Lake Bluff, IL. In 2017 she returned to painting and maintains a studio in Lake Geneva, WI. "I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way—things I had no words for" –Georgia O'Keeffe

### **Emily Schildhouse**

Trying to create beauty in this world of chaos. Emily lives with her husband and two daughters in Dexter, MI.

### **Joel Schoon-Tanis**

For over 30 years, Joel Schoon-Tanis has been a working artist in Holland, Michigan. He has written and illustrated a handful of books (recently "40: the Gospels", "At Psalm's School" and "Lulu and the Long Walk"), painted murals around the world (including Kenya, Zambia, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Palestine, and exotic northern Wisconsin), and painted nearly a gazillion paintings in his career. His work is in churches, children's hospitals, schools, restaurants, businesses, and many private collections. In 2016 one of his images was presented to the Pope. In 2017 he joined international artists in Leipzig, Germany, to create art around themes of social justice in conjunction with a gathering for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He lives in Holland, MI, with his smart wife, Kathy, and their creative, clever, daughters, Harper and Beatrix.

### **Anna Swartz**

Anna Swartz experiences the roundness of life where she lives and works in Midland, Michigan. After several years as an arts program manager in a botanical garden, she decided to pursue her love of nature by building her own home gardening business. Anna prefers the variability of her work, which changes with each season and allows her to be outside nearly every day. When she's not amongst her clients' flowers, you'll most likely find her in her own home garden where she's nurturing diversity using a small, market garden approach. Anna continues to indulge in self-reflection through her enjoyment of photography, music, poetry, and conversation.

**Monica Taylor**

Monica Taylor is a photographer, mixed media, and fiber artist based in the Greater Philadelphia area. She has a decade of professional experience digitizing and democratizing access to historic archives and museum collections. Taylor's work moves fluidly across mediums, guided by what resonates most with the personal ideas she explores. Her visual language blends concepts of collage and expressionism with a sense of the familiar, creating work that is both universal and intimately specific. Her recent pieces confront the profound grief of losing her older brother and mother within two years, and the resulting transformation of her identity. Taylor's work serves as self-guided art therapy, a visual diary that opens vulnerable moments of her experience to the viewer, resulting in works where memory, loss, and self intertwine.

**Heidi VanWieren**

(b. 1973, Holland, MI)

I am a Michigan-based artist whose work investigates process, overlapping color, and layered materials, intersecting the natural and constructed environment. I am drawn to the complexity found in simplicity. I hold an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. My work has been featured in solo and two-person exhibitions at Margaret Thatcher Projects (New York), Roy Boyd Gallery (Chicago), Urban Institute of Contemporary Art (Grand Rapids), Douglas and Linda Paul Gallery (Iowa City), and Klein Art Works (Chicago), among others. I have also participated in numerous group exhibitions across the United States and internationally, including Rocket Gallery (London) and the Midwest Biennial at DePauw University. My work has been reviewed in publications such as New Art Examiner and Angle. I have lived and worked in Chicago, New York City, Cleveland, and Iowa City. Currently, I live and work in Ann Arbor with my husband, John, and our three kids, Schuyler, Elsie, and Marcus.

**Amelia Volwiler-Stanley**

Amelia Volwiler-Stanley is a multidisciplinary artist based in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan. She holds a BA from Hope College and an MFA from Indiana University Bloomington, where she focused on Sculpture, Installation Art, Printmaking, and Digital Fabrication. Her creative path began in her grandmother's sewing room, where she first learned to sew and developed an early passion for garment-making—a focus she has recently returned to after years of exploring diverse media. Volwiler-Stanley's current practice spans cyanotype photography, computer-aided design and fabrication, and experimental fashion, with a focus on transforming discarded materials into wearable works of art. She is the owner of PsyanoForest LLC, a sustainable fashion studio rooted in material reuse. She currently serves as Senior Designer and Project Manager for Los Angeles-based artist Eames Demetrios, overseeing global installations and design systems for his ongoing project Kcymaerxthaere. Volwiler-Stanley has been awarded fellowships at Ox-Bow School of Art (LeRoy Neiman), Indiana University, the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica Venezia, and Vermont Studio Center. Her work explores themes of grief, transformation, and the complexity of internal experience through materiality, process, and nature-based symbolism. She lives with her partner, two stepchildren, and their poodle.